

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 301477

66

ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 L-03
PM-04 NRC-05 /058 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:JCOON:SK

APPROVED BY OES/NET:JBDEVINE

S/P - MR. KAHAN

PM/NPO- MR. OPLINGER

ACDA - MR. VAN DOREN

ERDA- MS. MACFADDEN

L/OES - MR. SIEGAL

EUR/SE- MR. LEDSKY

IO/SCT - MR. CAVANAUGH

----- 098327

R 110228Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 301477

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR GREECE'S RESEARCH
REACTOR

REF: (A) ATHENS 12150; (B) IAEA VIENNA 9139

1. REF PARA 1 ATHENS 12150, WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY IAEA
OR USG PLANS TO ASK US EXPERT TO VISIT ATHENS TO DISCUSS
POSSIBLE USE OF URANIUM WITH LOWER PERCENTAGE OF ENRICH-
MENT. AS GREEKS MAY BE AWARE, UNDER LONG-STANDING POLICY,
WHICH IS REFLECTED IN MANY US BILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR
COOPERATION ON CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, HIGHLY-ENRICHED
URANIUM (HEU), HAVING ISOTOPIC CONTENT OF MORE THAN TWENTY
PERCENT U-235 MAY BE SUPPLIED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES AT US
DISCRETION FOR RESEARCH REACTOR FUEL AND OTHER USES WHEN
TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED. APPLICATIONS FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 301477

EXPORT OF HEU ARE REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITH SPECIAL

CARE IN VIEW OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR USE IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES IN CASE OF THEFT OR DIVERSION. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES TO EXPORT NUCLEAR MATERIAL ARE REFERRED BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WHERE THEY ARE CAREFULLY REVIEWED ON AN INTERAGENCY BASIS, AND A JUDGMENT REACHED AS TO WHETHER FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE MADE TO NRC.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW OF EACH EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR HEU, WE HAVE INITIATED NEW PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH PROPOSED END USERS OF SUCH MATERIAL WILL BE ASKED (NORMALLY THROUGH US EMBASSY IN REQUESTING COUNTRY) TO REVIEW REQUESTS FOR THIS TYPE OF MATERIAL TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NEEDS COVERED BY EACH SPECIFIC REQUEST COULD BE SATISFIED BY THE USE OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO TWENTY PERCENT, OR LESS, IN THE U-235 ISOTOPE. URANIUM OF SUCH ENRICHMENT IS NOT REGARDED AS WEAPONS GRADE MATERIAL.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, BEFORE WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLY OF HEU AS REQUESTED, EMBASSY ATHENS SHOULD CONFIRM TO APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES THAT WE HAVE INITIATED NEW PROCEDURE IN CONNECTION WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW OF EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR HEU. ALTHOUGH APPLICATION FOR EXPORT LICENSE IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AT ISSUE, BEFORE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO SUPPLY AGREEMENT, EMBASSY ATHENS, IN LINE WITH NEW PROCEDURE, SHOULD ASK APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES IN A LOW-KEY, INFORMAL MANNER WHETHER REQUIREMENT FOR REPLACEMENT FUEL COULD BE MET ON A TIMELY BASIS THROUGH USE OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO TWENTY PERCENT, OR LESS, IN U-235. WE NOTE, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT "DEMOKRITIS" REACTOR IS CURRENTLY FUELED WITH 93 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM, BUT THIS REACTOR WAS ORIGINALLY FUELED WITH URANIUM ENRICHED TO 19.8 PERCENT.

4. IN RAISING THIS MATTER, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT QUESTION WE ARE POSING IS WHETHER THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR REPLACEMENT FUEL CAN BE MET ON A TIMELY BASIS BY USE OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO TWENTY PERCENT OR LESS, TAKING INTO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 301477

ACCOUNT AVAILABILITY OF FABRICATION SERVICES FOR TWENTY PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL ELEMENTS AND RELATED FACTORS. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WISH TO KNOW WHETHER TWENTY PERCENT MATERIAL CAN BE USED UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT REPEAT NOT ON BASIS OF SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATIONS OF THE REACTOR OR OF ITS OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS. WE ARE NOT REQUESTING A FULL-SCALE STUDY OF FEASIBILITY OF CONVERSION TO TWENTY PERCENT OPERATION, BUT SIMPLY PROMPT IN-

FORMAL RESPONSE BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION. FURTHER-
MORE, OUR DECISION TO ASK REQUESTORS OF HEU TO PROVIDE
THIS KIND OF INFORMATION DOES NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGE IN
CURRENT US POLICY CONCERNING SUPPLY OF HEU FOR RESEARCH
USES. RATHER, IT IS INFORMATION NEEDED TO ALLOW US TO
IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY EFFECTIVELY, AND NEED FOR THIS IN-
FORMATION IS FORESEEN BY THE PROVISION OF US BILATERAL
AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION WHICH ALLOWS DISTRIBUTION OF
HEU AT US DISCRETION ONLY WHEN TECHNICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY

JUSTIFIED.

5. FYI. EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS REVIEWING GENERAL POLICY OF
SUPPLY OF HEU FOR RESEARCH REACTOR AND RELATED USES.
THIS STUDY WILL CONSIDER, INTER ALIA, COSTS AND BENEFITS
OF CONVERTING SUCH REACTORS, AND THEIR FUEL ELEMENTS, TO
USE OF LOWER ENRICHED FUEL, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AVAILABI-
LITY AND COST OF FUEL FABRICATION SERVICES FOR URANIUM
OF VARIOUS ENRICHMENTS, EFFECTS ON REACTOR EFFICIENCY,
AND RELATED FACTORS. STUDY MAY OR MAY NOT RESULT IN DE-
CISION TO CURTAIL DISTRIBUTION OF HEU FOR RESEARCH PUR-
POSES. PENDING COMPLETION OF STUDY, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO
AVOID SPECULATION WHICH COULD INDUCE FOREIGN ENRICHMENT
PLANT OPERATORS TO DECIDE TO PRODUCE HEU. FOR SAME
REASON, WE INTEND, PENDING COMPLETION OF STUDY, TO CON-
TINUE EXISTING POLICY OF DISTRIBUTION OF HEU WITHOUT
CHANGE AND, HOPEFULLY, WITHOUT EXTENSIVE DELAYS IN
EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS WHICH
HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY. END FYI.

6. IN PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HONOR OUR PLEDGE TO
THE IAEA OF DOLS. 50,000 IN SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL. THE
PLEDGE COULD PROVIDE A PORTION OF THE SNM REQUESTED BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 301477

GREECE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN EVENT WE SEE OUR WAY
CLEAR TO DO SO, ALL THE SNM WILL BE SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS
UNDER THE IAEA-GREEK NPT AGREEMENT AND THE IAEA-GREEK
PROJECT AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD REQUIRE, PRIOR
TO OR CONCURRENT WITH SIGNING AN AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY, AN
EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH GREECE SIMILAR TO THE NOTES EX-
CHANGED BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND GREEK CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
IN JULY 1974. THAT EXCHANGE CONFIRMED THE CONTINUING EF-
FECT OF THE SAFEGUARDS, GUARANTEE AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF
THE EXPIRED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION. THE NEW EXCHANGE
WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING THE SNM SUBJECT TO THE
SAFEGUARDS, GUARANTEES AND REPROCESSING PROVISIONS OF THAT
AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PROVISION
FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ON PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES.
EMBASSY ATHENS SHOULD INFORM THE GREEKS OF OUR EXPECTATION

IN THIS REGARD. ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS, NUCLEAR RESEARCH, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE301477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCOON:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-0535
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761250/aaaabrcv.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 12150, 76 IAEA VIENNA 9139
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <24 MAR 2004 by hartledg, REFER TO DOE>; RELEASED <16 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR GREECE'S RESEARCH REACTOR
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GR, US, IAEA
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006